



## MNL Plug Planting Protocol

- 1) Plan the layout and select the plants. One plant per square foot is our typical recommendation. Grasses and sedges play an important role in supporting wildlife as well as physically supporting the forbs (flowers). Evenly spaced grasses with clusters of flowers looks nice in small plantings. Locating taller plants near the back or middle and shorter plants on the edges can make the planting more appealing. Diversity (the number of species) should increase with the size of the planting.
- 2) Prepare the planting site by removing all unwanted vegetation. This can be done with a glyphosate based herbicide, mechanical removal, or solarization. Future weeding the planting can be made much easier if the removal is complete. Don't rush this stage as it can take a full year to be sure weeds are not present.
- 3) Plant in the locations indicated in the plan. Use caution not to bury any mulch or other fresh organic matter in the hole. The plant should be planted flush with the surface of the ground or just slightly below. Covering the top of the potting soil with a dusting of soil will prevent the plant from drying out too quickly but do not cover the potting soil very deeply.
- 4) Precipitation should do most of the watering but the plants should be watered at least once immediately after planting and every 5-7 days without rain for the first month.
- 5) Pulling weeds by hand is the most effective way to get the planting off to a good start. Soon the plants will fill in enough that weeds will not be able to become established.